



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 143**

*January Session, 2011*

Substitute House Bill No. 6282

*House of Representatives, March 22, 2011*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. TERCYAK of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING AN ANNUAL RESULTS-BASED  
ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD EVALUATING STATE POLICIES  
AND PROGRAMS IMPACTING CHILDREN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1      Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) The select committee of  
2      the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
3      children, in consultation with the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the Office  
4      of Legislative Research and the Commission on Children, shall  
5      maintain an annual report card that evaluates the progress of state  
6      policies and programs in promoting the result that all Connecticut  
7      children grow up in a stable living environment, safe, healthy and  
8      ready to lead successful lives. Progress shall be measured by primary  
9      indicators of progress, including, but not limited to, indicators  
10     established in the final report of the Legislative Program Review and  
11     Investigations Committee prepared pursuant to the provisions of  
12     section 1 of public act 09-166, of state-wide rates of child abuse, child  
13     poverty, low birth weight, third grade reading proficiency, and the  
14     annual social health index developed pursuant to section 46a-131a of

15 the general statutes. For each indicator, the data shall also be presented  
16 according to ethnicity or race, gender, geography and, where  
17 appropriate, age and other relevant characteristics. Said committee  
18 shall prepare the report card on or before January 15, 2012, and  
19 annually thereafter. On or before January 15, 2012, and annually  
20 thereafter, said committee shall make the report card available to the  
21 public on the Internet and on the web site of the General Assembly and  
22 shall transmit the report card electronically to (1) members of the joint  
23 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
24 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies  
25 and human services, (2) the Commissioners of Children and Families,  
26 Education and Public Health, (3) the Child Advocate, (4) the Secretary  
27 of the Office of Policy and Management, and (5) the Chief Court  
28 Administrator.

29 (b) On or before January 15, 2012, the select committee of the  
30 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, in  
31 consultation with a working group of representatives of state agencies  
32 and departments, community organizations, private provider agencies  
33 operating programs that impact the well-being of children and  
34 families, parents and other caretakers of children, child advocacy  
35 organizations, health care professionals that serve children and  
36 families, schools, and child care providers, shall identify or develop (1)  
37 an indicator for measuring whether children are living with their  
38 families and have stability in their living environments, (2) secondary  
39 indicators for measuring progress within each area of children's well-  
40 being related to measuring progress in their health, safety, stability,  
41 education and future success, including, but not limited to, food  
42 security, and (3) key measures of performance of the state child  
43 welfare system, including, but not limited to, (A) rates of repeat  
44 maltreatment among victims of child abuse and neglect; (B) placement  
45 in out-of-home care among children at risk of abuse and neglect; (C)  
46 child fatalities involving child abuse or neglect; (D) rates of  
47 reunification and permanency for children removed from their homes;  
48 and (E) the developmental and health status and educational progress  
49 of children served by the child welfare system and other appropriate

50 measures of well-being and preparation for success in life. Not less  
 51 than annually, said committee shall: (i) With the assistance of the  
 52 working group, review the adequacy of primary and secondary  
 53 indicators, system-level performance measures, and related data  
 54 resources for such indicators and measures, and determine whether  
 55 there are more appropriate alternatives to monitoring progress in  
 56 achieving the result that all Connecticut children grow up in a stable  
 57 living environment, safe, healthy and ready to lead successful lives,  
 58 and (ii) in consultation with the results-based accountability  
 59 subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
 60 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the  
 61 budgets of state agencies, identify programs within the child welfare  
 62 system that make a significant contribution to achieving such result  
 63 and require the entities administering such programs to prepare  
 64 annual report cards employing the results-based format developed by  
 65 said subcommittee.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2011	New section
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1(a), in the phrase "first report card", the word "first" was deleted for accuracy.

**KID**                      *Joint Favorable C/R*    HS

**HS**                      *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill, which requires the Select Committee on Children to perform various results-based accountability (RBA) activities, in consultation with the Appropriations Committee and the Offices of Fiscal Analysis and Legislative Research, does not result in a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6282****AN ACT REQUIRING AN ANNUAL RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD EVALUATING STATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IMPACTING CHILDREN.****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Children's Committee to (1) maintain an annual report card evaluating the progress of state policies and programs impacting children; (2) develop, with a working group, progress indicators and measures related to issues affecting children; and (3) consult with the Appropriations Committee's results-based accountability (RBA) subcommittee to identify child welfare system programs that must prepare their own annual report cards. The bill specifies (1) the progress indicators that must be included in the Children's Committee's report card along with relevant data and (2) the report card's distribution requirements. It identifies the participants in the working group, the issues for which indicators and measures must be developed, and the subsequent review process the committee must conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

**REPORT CARD**

The Children's Committee, in consultation with the offices of Fiscal Analysis and Legislative Research and the Commission on Children, must maintain an annual "report card" that evaluates state policies and programs that impact children.

***Indicators***

The report card must use progress measures based on those previously identified in the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee's *RBA Pilot Project Study 2009: DCF Family*

*Preservation and Supports and The Social State of Connecticut 2008.*

The Program Review report's five indicators are the rates of child abuse; low birth weight; child poverty; third grade reading proficiency; and an overall indicator of well-being, which is referred to as Connecticut's social health index. The five social health report index indicators for children and youth are infant mortality, child abuse, youth suicide, high school dropouts, and teenage births. The bill requires that the data for each indicator be presented by ethnicity or race, gender, geography, and, where appropriate, age and other characteristics.

### ***Distribution***

The committee must complete its first report card by January 15, 2012, and prepare one annually thereafter. The report must be available on the General Assembly's website, and on the Internet, and sent electronically to:

1. members of the Appropriations and Human Services committees;
2. the commissioners of Children and Families, Education, and Public Health;
3. the child advocate;
4. the Office of Policy and Management secretary; and
5. the chief court administrator.

### **WORKING GROUP**

#### ***Responsibilities***

By January 15, 2012, the Children's Committee must consult with a working group to identify or develop:

1. an indicator to measure whether children are living with their families in stable living environments;

2. secondary well-being indicators to measure progress in children's health, safety, stability, education, and future success, including food security;
3. performance measures for the state's child welfare system that include (a) rates of repeat maltreatment among victims of child abuse and neglect, (b) out-of-home placements for children at risk of abuse and neglect, (c) child fatalities involving child abuse and neglect, (d) rates of reunification and permanency for children removed from their homes, and (e) the developmental and health status and educational progress of children served by the child welfare system and other appropriate measures of well-being and success in life.

At least once per year, the Children's Committee, with the working group's assistance, must review the primary and secondary indicators and performance measures described above and their data resources to determine whether there are more appropriate ways to monitor progress toward the result that all the state's children grow in a stable living environment, safe, healthy, and prepared to lead successful lives.

***Composition Of Working Group***

The working group must include representatives of:

1. state agencies and departments,
2. community organizations,
3. private provider agencies operating programs for children and families,
4. parents and other child caretakers,
5. child advocacy organizations,
6. health care professionals that serve children and families,

7. schools, and
8. child care providers.

**CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM PROGRAMS**

The bill also requires the committee to consult annually with the Appropriations Committee's RBA subcommittee to identify programs within the child welfare system that significantly contribute to achieving the result described above. The entities that administer these programs, in turn, must prepare annual report cards using the RBA format.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
Yea 9 Nay 0 (02/15/2011)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 12 Nay 6 (03/10/2011)